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Girls Return to Sweet Sixteen®



The Kentucky High School Athletic Association brought back girls' tournament play in 1975. The field that year included schools from all over Kentucky: Middlesboro, Anderson County, Bates Creek, Paducah Tilghman, Monticello, Marion County, Seneca, Sheldon Clark, Newport, Russell, South Hopkins, Owensboro, Barren County, Jenkins, Butler and George Rogers Clark.



Their jerseys did not even have the name of their school, but these girls show how much their return to post-season play meant to girls' teams in the mid-1970s. (Photo courtesy of John C. Wyatt Lexington Herald-Leader collection, University of Kentucky, Special Collections and Research Center.)

Some of those schools had teams for a few years before the 1974-75 school year. Others did not, but even schools with teams apparently did not always have the school's full support. The 1975 Anderson County yearbook noted: "With little support from the school," the team won one invitational tournament and won the District and Regional Tournaments. The state championship went to the Butler Bearettes of Louisville, who beat Barren County 60 to 43.